

a history of god book

A History of God: An Analysis of Karen Armstrong's Masterpiece and its Enduring Relevance

Author: Karen Armstrong

Karen Armstrong, the author of *A History of God*, is a renowned scholar of comparative religion and a former Roman Catholic nun. Her unique perspective, shaped by years of religious study and personal experience, provides a compelling and nuanced approach to the complexities of faith. Armstrong's deep understanding of various religious traditions, coupled with her clear and engaging writing style, makes *A History of God* accessible to a broad audience while maintaining scholarly rigor. Her background, combining personal spiritual exploration with academic rigor, uniquely positions her to write a compelling and informative *A History of God* book.

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf

Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Penguin Random House, is one of the world's leading publishers of high-quality non-fiction, including numerous works on religion, history, and philosophy. Their reputation for publishing rigorous scholarship and engaging narratives adds credibility to *A History of God*. Their established presence in the academic and popular markets ensures a wide reach for Armstrong's work, contributing to its lasting influence.

Editor: (Specific editor information is not consistently available for all editions. However, the presence of a skilled editor at Knopf is implied by the high quality of the published work.) A skilled editor from Knopf would have ensured consistency, accuracy, and clarity of the text, thereby enhancing the credibility and impact of *A History of God*. The editorial process at Knopf likely involved fact-checking, stylistic editing, and ensuring the work adhered to academic standards.

A Journey Through Divine Conceptions: Understanding A History of God

A History of God is not a dry theological treatise but a compelling narrative exploring the evolution of the concept of God across major monotheistic traditions – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Armstrong meticulously traces the shifting images of God from the ancient Near East, through the development of biblical narratives, to the emergence of Islam and beyond. The book's strength lies in its comparative approach, highlighting similarities and differences in how God has been understood and experienced across these faiths. Armstrong skillfully avoids simplistic generalizations, acknowledging the internal complexities and diverse interpretations within each religious tradition.

Main Findings and Conclusions:

The central argument of *A History of God* is that the concept of God is not static but has undergone a profound transformation over time. Armstrong demonstrates how the image of God, initially understood as an anthropomorphic deity directly involved in the world, gradually evolved toward a

more transcendent and unknowable being. This evolution, she argues, is not simply a linear progression but a complex interplay of cultural, political, and social factors.

Key findings include:

The shift from polytheism to monotheism: Armstrong meticulously details the transition from polytheistic beliefs to the emergence of monotheistic faiths, highlighting the gradual evolution of religious understanding and practice.

The evolution of God's image: The book traces how the understanding of God's personality and characteristics shifted from a powerful, interventionist figure to a more abstract, transcendent being.

The impact of mysticism: Armstrong emphasizes the role of mystical experiences in shaping the understanding of God, particularly in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. She shows how mystical traditions have often challenged conventional interpretations of religious doctrine and practice.

The influence of social and political contexts: A History of God reveals how the understanding of God has been significantly shaped by social and political circumstances, demonstrating the interaction between religion and the world.

The continuing relevance of religious experience: Despite the historical changes in understanding God, Armstrong demonstrates the continued importance of religious experience and the ongoing search for meaning and purpose. This makes the book a relevant text even today.

The book concludes with a reflection on the challenges and possibilities of faith in the modern world. Armstrong suggests that the modern world's secularization does not necessarily imply the end of religion, but rather a need for a renewed understanding of faith that incorporates both reason and experience. The enduring relevance of A History of God lies in its ability to provide a framework for understanding the complexities of faith in an increasingly diverse and globalized world. This makes the study of A History of God a necessary endeavor for anyone seeking a deeper comprehension of the world's religious landscape.

The Enduring Relevance of A History of God

In today's world, marked by religious conflict and misunderstanding, A History of God offers a powerful antidote to religious intolerance. By highlighting the shared roots and common threads among the Abrahamic traditions, the book fosters interfaith dialogue and understanding. Its emphasis on the evolution of religious thought encourages a nuanced and critical approach to faith, moving away from rigid dogma toward a more open and inclusive perspective. In the current political climate, where religious identity often fuels division, A History of God provides a valuable tool for fostering empathy and promoting respectful engagement across religious differences. The book's detailed exploration of the historical development of the concept of God facilitates a better understanding of the motivations and beliefs of those from different religious backgrounds.

Conclusion

Karen Armstrong's A History of God remains a seminal work in the study of comparative religion. Its insightful analysis of the evolution of God's image across Judaism, Christianity, and Islam offers a powerful tool for understanding the complexities of faith and fostering interfaith dialogue. The book's enduring relevance stems from its ability to bridge the gap between historical scholarship and contemporary concerns, offering a nuanced and accessible perspective on one of humanity's most

fundamental questions. Understanding the historical context provided in *A History of God* is crucial to navigating the complexities of contemporary religious discourse and promoting religious tolerance and understanding in a globalized world.

FAQs

1. What is the main thesis of *A History of God*? The main thesis is that the concept of God has evolved significantly over time, adapting to cultural and historical contexts within Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
1. Who is the target audience of *A History of God*? The book is accessible to a broad audience, from those with limited knowledge of religion to scholars of comparative religion.
1. What are the primary sources Armstrong uses in *A History of God*? Armstrong draws on a vast array of primary sources, including religious texts, historical documents, and philosophical writings from various eras.
1. How does *A History of God* contribute to interfaith dialogue? By highlighting the shared origins and common themes across different monotheistic faiths, the book promotes understanding and respect among different religious communities.
1. What criticisms have been leveled against *A History of God*? Some critics argue that Armstrong's interpretations are occasionally subjective or that she oversimplifies the complexities of certain theological debates.
1. Is *A History of God* suitable for academic study? Yes, the book's scholarly approach and detailed analysis make it a valuable resource for academic study in religious studies, history, and comparative religion.
1. How does *A History of God* address the issue of religious violence? While not solely focused on violence, the book implicitly addresses it by highlighting how interpretations of God have sometimes been used to justify conflict.

1. What is Armstrong's personal perspective on religion as reflected in the book? While maintaining objectivity, Armstrong's background as a former nun informs her perspective and provides a level of understanding that adds to the book's richness.

1. Where can I find more information about Karen Armstrong's work? You can find more information on her website and through numerous biographies and interviews available online and in libraries.

Related Articles:

1. "The Problem of God: In Search of a Meaningful Religious Belief": This article explores the challenges of faith in the modern world, considering the evolution of the concept of God discussed in *A History of God*.

1. "Mysticism and the Evolution of Religious Thought": This article focuses on the role of mystical experiences in shaping the understanding of God, drawing on examples presented in *A History of God*.

1. "Comparing the Divine Images in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam": This article examines the specific ways God is understood and represented in the three major Abrahamic religions, using *A History of God* as a framework.

1. "The Social and Political Context of Religious Belief": This article discusses the interplay between religion and power, drawing on examples from Armstrong's work.

1. "The Impact of Secularization on Religious Belief": An analysis of how modern secularism has challenged and shaped traditional understandings of God, as explored in *A History of God*.

1. "Interfaith Dialogue and the Search for Common Ground": This article uses *A History of God* to

explore the possibilities and challenges of interfaith cooperation.

1. "A Critical Analysis of Karen Armstrong's Interpretations of Religious Texts": This piece examines specific interpretations presented in *A History of God*, considering both their strengths and weaknesses.
1. "The Evolution of Monotheism: From Polytheism to the Abrahamic Traditions": This article specifically examines the transition from polytheistic belief systems to the monotheistic religions highlighted in *A History of God*.
1. "The Future of Religious Belief in a Globalized World": An article examining the implications of globalization on religious belief and practice, inspired by the themes and insights presented in *A History of God*.

a history of god book: *A History of God* Karen Armstrong, 1994-08-09 Why does God exist? How have the three dominant monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—shaped and altered the conception of God? How have these religions influenced each other? In this stunningly intelligent book, Karen Armstrong, one of Britain's foremost commentators on religious affairs, traces the history of how men and women have perceived and experienced God, from the time of Abraham to the present. The epic story begins with the Jews' gradual transformation of pagan idol worship in Babylon into true monotheism—a concept previously unknown in the world. Christianity and Islam both rose on the foundation of this revolutionary idea, but these religions refashioned 'the One God' to suit the social and political needs of their followers. From classical philosophy and medieval mysticism to the Reformation, Karen Armstrong performs the near miracle of distilling the intellectual history of monotheism into one superbly readable volume, destined to take its place as a classic. Praise for *History of God* "An admirable and impressive work of synthesis that will give insight and satisfaction to thousands of lay readers."—The Washington Post Book World "A brilliantly lucid, spendidly readable book. [Karen] Armstrong has a dazzling ability: she can take a long and complex subject and reduce it to the fundamentals, without oversimplifying."—The Sunday Times (London) "Absorbing . . . A lode of learning."—Time "The most fascinating and learned study of the biggest wild goose chase in history—the quest for God. Karen Armstrong is a genius."—A.N. Wilson, author of *Jesus: A Life*

a history of god book: *A History of God* Karen Armstrong, 2004 A study of the deity of the world's three dominant monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In a dynamic interplay between religion and society's ever-changing beliefs, values, and traditions, human beings' ideas about God have been transformed. Ideas about God have been molded to apply to the spiritual needs of the people who worship him in a particular place and time. The author explores and analyzes the development and progression of the various perceptions of God from the days of Abraham to present times--Adapted from book jacket.

a history of god book: A History of God Karen Armstrong, 1994 Explores the ways in which the idea and experience of God evolved among monotheists--Jews, Christians and Muslims.

a history of god book: God Reza Aslan, 2017-11-07 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The author of *Zealot* explores humanity's quest to make sense of the divine in this concise and fascinating history of our understanding of God. In *Zealot*, Reza Aslan replaced the staid, well-worn portrayal of Jesus of Nazareth with a startling new image of the man in all his contradictions. In his new book, Aslan takes on a subject even more immense: God, writ large. In layered prose and with thoughtful, accessible scholarship, Aslan narrates the history of religion as a remarkably cohesive attempt to understand the divine by giving it human traits and emotions. According to Aslan, this innate desire to humanize God is hardwired in our brains, making it a central feature of nearly every religious tradition. As Aslan writes, "Whether we are aware of it or not, and regardless of whether we're believers or not, what the vast majority of us think about when we think about God is a divine version of ourselves." But this projection is not without consequences. We bestow upon God not just all that is good in human nature—our compassion, our thirst for justice—but all that is bad in it: our greed, our bigotry, our penchant for violence. All these qualities inform our religions, cultures, and governments. More than just a history of our understanding of God, this book is an attempt to get to the root of this humanizing impulse in order to develop a more universal spirituality. Whether you believe in one God, many gods, or no god at all, *God: A Human History* will challenge the way you think about the divine and its role in our everyday lives. Praise for *God* "Timely, riveting, enlightening and necessary."—HuffPost "Tantalizing . . . Driven by [Reza] Aslan's grace and curiosity, *God* . . . helps us pan out from our troubled times, while asking us to consider a more expansive view of the divine in contemporary life."—The Seattle Times "A fascinating exploration of the interaction of our humanity and God."—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette "[Aslan's] slim, yet ambitious book [is] the story of how humans have created God with a capital G, and it's thoroughly mind-blowing."—Los Angeles Review of Books "Aslan is a born storyteller, and there is much to enjoy in this intelligent survey."—San Francisco Chronicle

a history of god book: The Case for God Karen Armstrong, 2009-09-22 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A nuanced exploration of the role of religion in our lives, drawing on insights of the past to build a faith for our dangerously polarized age—from the New York Times bestselling author of *The History of God* Moving from the Paleolithic age to the present, Karen Armstrong details the great lengths to which humankind has gone in order to experience a sacred reality that it called by many names, such as God, Brahman, Nirvana, Allah, or Dao. Focusing especially on Christianity but including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Chinese spiritualities, Armstrong examines the diminished impulse toward religion in our own time, when a significant number of people either want nothing to do with God or question the efficacy of faith. Why has God become unbelievable? Why is it that atheists and theists alike now think and speak about God in a way that veers so profoundly from the thinking of our ancestors? Answering these questions with the same depth of knowledge and profound insight that have marked all her acclaimed books, Armstrong makes clear how the changing face of the world has necessarily changed the importance of religion at both the societal and the individual level. Yet she cautions us that religion was never supposed to provide answers that lie within the competence of human reason; that, she says, is the role of logos. The task of religion is "to help us live creatively, peacefully, and even joyously with realities for which there are no easy explanations." She emphasizes, too, that religion will not work automatically. It is, she says, a practical discipline: its insights are derived not from abstract speculation but from "dedicated intellectual endeavor" and a "compassionate lifestyle that enables us to break out of the prism of selfhood."

a history of god book: A History of God Karen Armstrong, 1993 We look first at the gradual move away from the pagan gods to the full-fledged monotheism of the Jews during the exile in Babylon. Next considered is the development of parallel, yet different, perceptions and beliefs among Christians and Muslims.

a history of god book: God John Bowker, 2002 A history of religion explores the ways in which

various cultures and civilizations have viewed God, religion, and spirituality through the ages.

a history of god book: A History of the Bible John Barton, 2020-08-04 A literary history of our most influential book of all time, by an Oxford scholar and Anglican priest In our culture, the Bible is monolithic: It is a collection of books that has been unchanged and unchallenged since the earliest days of the Christian church. The idea of the Bible as Holy Scripture, a non-negotiable authority straight from God, has prevailed in Western society for some time. And while it provides a firm foundation for centuries of Christian teaching, it denies the depth, variety, and richness of this fascinating text. In *A History of the Bible*, John Barton argues that the Bible is not a prescription to a complete, fixed religious system, but rather a product of a long and intriguing process, which has inspired Judaism and Christianity, but still does not describe the whole of either religion. Barton shows how the Bible is indeed an important source of religious insight for Jews and Christians alike, yet argues that it must be read in its historical context--from its beginnings in myth and folklore to its many interpretations throughout the centuries. It is a book full of narratives, laws, proverbs, prophecies, poems, and letters, each with their own character and origin stories. Barton explains how and by whom these disparate pieces were written, how they were canonized (and which ones weren't), and how they were assembled, disseminated, and interpreted around the world--and, importantly, to what effect. Ultimately, *A History of the Bible* argues that a thorough understanding of the history and context of its writing encourages religious communities to move away from the Bible's literal wording--which is impossible to determine--and focus instead on the broader meanings of scripture.

a history of god book: A History of the Concept of God Daniel A. Dombrowski, 2016-01-01 A history of the concept of God through the lens of process thought.

a history of god book: A History of God Karen Armstrong, 1999 In this extensive and original account of the evolution of belief, Karen Armstrong examines Western society's unerring fidelity to the idea of One God and the many conflicting convictions it engenders.

a history of god book: A History of God Karen Armstrong, As soon as they became recognizably human, men and women--in their hunger to understand their own presence on earth and the mysteries within and around them--began to worship gods. Karen Armstrong's masterly and illuminating book explores the ways in which the idea and experience of God evolved among the monotheists--Jews, Christians and Muslims. Weaving a multicolored fabric of historical, philosophical, intellectual and social developments and insights, Armstrong shows how, at various times through the centuries, each of the monotheistic religions has held a subtly different concept of God. At the same time she draws our attention to the basic and profound similarities among them, making it clear that in all of them God has been and is experienced intensely, passionately and often--especially in the West--traumatically. Some monotheists have seen darkness, desolation and terror, where others have seen light and transfiguration; the reasons for these inherent differences are examined, and the people behind them are brought to life. We look first at the gradual move away from the pagan gods to the full-fledged monotheism of the Jews during the exile in Babylon. Next considered is the development of parallel, yet different, perceptions and beliefs among Christians and Muslims. The book then moves generationally through time to examine the God of the philosophers and mystics in all three traditions, the God of the Reformation, the God of the Enlightenment and finally the nineteenth- and twentieth-century challenges of skeptics and atheists, as well as the fiercely reductive faith of the fundamentalists of our own day. Armstrong suggests that any particular idea of God must--if it is to survive--work for the people who develop it, and that ideas of God change when they cease to be effective. She argues that the concept of a personal God who behaves like a larger version of ourselves was suited to mankind at a certain stage but no longer works for an increasing number of people. Understanding the ever-changing ideas of God in the past and their relevance and usefulness in their time, she says, is a way to begin the search for a new concept for the twenty-first century. Her book shows that such a development is virtually inevitable, in spite of the despair of our increasingly Godless world, because it is a natural aspect of our humanity to seek a symbol for the ineffable reality that is universally perceived.--Publisher's

description.

a history of god book: *The Battle for God* Karen Armstrong, 2001 One of the most potent forces bedeviling the modern world is religious fundamentalism. Armstrong explains how and why fundamentalists' understanding of religion and society differs so starkly from that of their contemporaries.

a history of god book: *Fields of Blood* Karen Armstrong, 2014-10-28 A sweeping exploration of religion and the history of human violence—from the New York Times bestselling author of *The History of God* • “Elegant and powerful.... Both erudite and accurate, dazzling in its breadth of knowledge and historical detail.” —The Washington Post In these times of rising geopolitical chaos, the need for mutual understanding between cultures has never been more urgent. Religious differences are seen as fuel for violence and warfare. In these pages, one of our greatest writers on religion, Karen Armstrong, amasses a sweeping history of humankind to explore the perceived connection between war and the world's great creeds—and to issue a passionate defense of the peaceful nature of faith. With unprecedented scope, Armstrong looks at the whole history of each tradition—not only Christianity and Islam, but also Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Judaism. Religions, in their earliest days, endowed every aspect of life with meaning, and warfare became bound up with observances of the sacred. Modernity has ushered in an epoch of spectacular violence, although, as Armstrong shows, little of it can be ascribed directly to religion. Nevertheless, she shows us how and in what measure religions came to absorb modern belligerence—and what hope there might be for peace among believers of different faiths in our time.

a history of god book: *The Great Transformation* Karen Armstrong, 2009-02-24 From one of the world's leading writers on religion and the highly acclaimed author of the bestselling *A History of God*, *The Battle for God* and *The Spiral Staircase*, comes a major new work: a chronicle of one of the most important intellectual revolutions in world history and its relevance to our own time. In one astonishing, short period – the ninth century BCE – the peoples of four distinct regions of the civilized world created the religious and philosophical traditions that have continued to nourish humanity into the present day: Confucianism and Daoism in China; Hinduism and Buddhism in India; monotheism in Israel; and philosophical rationalism in Greece. Historians call this the Axial Age because of its central importance to humanity's spiritual development. Now, Karen Armstrong traces the rise and development of this transformative moment in history, examining the brilliant contributions to these traditions made by such figures as the Buddha, Socrates, Confucius and Ezekiel. Armstrong makes clear that despite some differences of emphasis, there was remarkable consensus among these religions and philosophies: each insisted on the primacy of compassion over hatred and violence. She illuminates what this “family” resemblance reveals about the religious impulse and quest of humankind. And she goes beyond spiritual archaeology, delving into the ways in which these Axial Age beliefs can present an instructive and thought-provoking challenge to the ways we think about and practice religion today. A revelation of humankind's early shared imperatives, yearnings and inspired solutions – as salutary as it is fascinating. Excerpt from *The Great Transformation*: In our global world, we can no longer afford a parochial or exclusive vision. We must learn to live and behave as though people in remote parts of the globe were as important as ourselves. The sages of the Axial Age did not create their compassionate ethic in idyllic circumstances. Each tradition developed in societies like our own that were torn apart by violence and warfare as never before; indeed, the first catalyst of religious change was usually a visceral rejection of the aggression that the sages witnessed all around them. . . . All the great traditions that were created at this time are in agreement about the supreme importance of charity and benevolence, and this tells us something important about our humanity.

a history of god book: *A Short History of Myth (Myths series)* Karen Armstrong, 2010-10-29 What are myths? How have they evolved? And why do we still so desperately need them? A history of myth is a history of humanity, Karen Armstrong argues in this insightful and eloquent book: our stories and beliefs, our curiosity and attempts to understand the world, link us to our ancestors and each other. This is a brilliant and thought-provoking introduction to myth in the

broadest sense—from Palaeolithic times to the “Great Western Transformation” of the last 500 years—and why we dismiss it only at our peril.

a history of god book: People of God Anthony E. Gilles, 2000 The history of Catholicism is the history of Christian faith. Anthony E. Gilles traces its development—from its beginnings in hushed gatherings within the Roman Empire to its current size and influence—in an accessible and enjoyable style. A revised and updated compilation of the history volumes from his best-selling People of God series, this book will help you understand how the Church developed in relation to, or in rebellion against, the larger culture. It details centuries of crucial turning points from the development of apostolic succession to the implementation of the reforms of Vatican II. Complete with maps, timelines and special focus sections on important events and issues, this valuable resource belongs in the collection of every student of Church history.

a history of god book: The Battle for God Karen Armstrong, 2001-01-30 In the late twentieth century, fundamentalism has emerged as one of the most powerful forces at work in the world, contesting the dominance of modern secular values and threatening peace and harmony around the globe. Yet it remains incomprehensible to a large number of people. In *The Battle for God*, Karen Armstrong brilliantly and sympathetically shows us how and why fundamentalist groups came into existence and what they yearn to accomplish. We see the West in the sixteenth century beginning to create an entirely new kind of civilization, which brought in its wake change in every aspect of life -- often painful and violent, even if liberating. Armstrong argues that one of the things that changed most was religion. People could no longer think about or experience the divine in the same way; they had to develop new forms of faith to fit their new circumstances. Armstrong characterizes fundamentalism as one of these new ways of being religious that have emerged in every major faith tradition. Focusing on Protestant fundamentalism in the United States, Jewish fundamentalism in Israel, and Muslim fundamentalism in Egypt and Iran, she examines the ways in which these movements, while not monolithic, have each sprung from a dread of modernity -- often in response to assault (sometimes unwitting, sometimes intentional) by the mainstream society. Armstrong sees fundamentalist groups as complex, innovative, and modern -- rather than as throwbacks to the past -- but contends that they have failed in religious terms. Maintaining that fundamentalism often exists in symbiotic relationship with an aggressive modernity, each impelling the other on to greater excess, she suggests compassion as a way to defuse what is now an intensifying conflict. BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.

a history of god book: Buddha Karen Armstrong, 2008-11-03 The author of *The Battle for God* and other works on religion focuses her attention on the Buddha, retracing his life from prince to savior of humankind, in a philosophical portrait that offers an illuminating look at how his life and path to spiritual enlightenment spawned one of the great religions of the world. Reprint.

a history of god book: History of Christianity Paul Johnson, 2012-03-27 First published in 1976, Paul Johnson's exceptional study of Christianity has been loved and widely hailed for its intensive research, writing, and magnitude—"a tour de force, one of the most ambitious surveys of the history of Christianity ever attempted and perhaps the most radical" (New York Review of Books). In a highly readable companion to books on faith and history, the scholar and author Johnson has illuminated the Christian world and its fascinating history in a way that no other has. Johnson takes off in the year AD 49 with his namesake the apostle Paul. Thus beginning an ambitious quest to paint the centuries since the founding of a little-known 'Jesus Sect', *A History of Christianity* explores to a great degree the evolution of the Western world. With an unbiased and overall optimistic tone, Johnson traces the fantastic scope of the consequent sects of Christianity and the people who followed them. Information drawn from extensive and varied sources from around the world makes this history as credible as it is reliable. Invaluable understanding of the framework of modern Christianity—and its trials and tribulations throughout history—has never before been contained in such a captivating work.

a history of god book: The Two Cities: A History of Christian Politics Andrew Willard Jones, 2021-06-24 The prevailing narrative of human history, given to us as children and reinforced

constantly through our culture, is the plot of progress. As the narrative goes, we progressed from tyranny to freedom, from superstition to science, from poverty to wealth, from darkness to enlightenment. This is modernity's origin myth. Out of it, a consensus has emerged: part of human progress is the overcoming of religion, in particular Christianity, and that the world itself is fundamentally secular. In *The Two Cities: A History of Christian Politics*, Andrew Willard Jones rewrites the political history of the West with a new plot, a plot in which Christianity is true, in which human history is Church history. The *Two Cities* moves through the rise and fall of empires; cycles of corruption and reform; the rise and fall of Christendom; the emergence of new political forms, such as the modern state, and new political ideologies, such as liberalism and socialism; through the horrible destruction of modern warfare; and on to the plight of contemporary Christians. These movements of history are all considered in light of their orientation toward or away from God. The *Two Cities* advances a theory of Christian politics that is both an explanation of secular politics and a proposal for Christians seeking to navigate today's most urgent political questions.

a history of god book: *A Little History of Religion* Richard Holloway, 2016-08-23 For curious readers young and old, a rich and colorful history of religion from humanity's earliest days to our own contentious times In an era of hardening religious attitudes and explosive religious violence, this book offers a welcome antidote. Richard Holloway retells the entire history of religion—from the dawn of religious belief to the twenty-first century—with deepest respect and a keen commitment to accuracy. Writing for those with faith and those without, and especially for young readers, he encourages curiosity and tolerance, accentuates nuance and mystery, and calmly restores a sense of the value of faith. Ranging far beyond the major world religions of Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism, Holloway also examines where religious belief comes from, the search for meaning throughout history, today's fascinations with Scientology and creationism, religiously motivated violence, hostilities between religious people and secularists, and more. Holloway proves an empathic yet discerning guide to the enduring significance of faith and its power from ancient times to our own.

a history of god book: *Manna and Mercy* Daniel Erlander, 1992 Through imagination, clarity, humor and cartoon, Daniel Erlander retells the Bible's story. Follows the themes of bread and forgiveness.

a history of god book: *Jesus* A. N. Wilson, 2004 Extraordinarily entertaining....Learned, witty....Wilson [is] a gifted novelist and diligent biographer.--Newsday

a history of god book: *The Case for God* Karen Armstrong, 2010-09-07 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A nuanced exploration of the role of religion in our lives, drawing on insights of the past to build a faith for our dangerously polarized age—from the New York Times bestselling author of *The History of God* Moving from the Paleolithic age to the present, Karen Armstrong details the great lengths to which humankind has gone in order to experience a sacred reality that it called by many names, such as God, Brahman, Nirvana, Allah, or Dao. Focusing especially on Christianity but including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Chinese spiritualities, Armstrong examines the diminished impulse toward religion in our own time, when a significant number of people either want nothing to do with God or question the efficacy of faith. Why has God become unbelievable? Why is it that atheists and theists alike now think and speak about God in a way that veers so profoundly from the thinking of our ancestors? Answering these questions with the same depth of knowledge and profound insight that have marked all her acclaimed books, Armstrong makes clear how the changing face of the world has necessarily changed the importance of religion at both the societal and the individual level. Yet she cautions us that religion was never supposed to provide answers that lie within the competence of human reason; that, she says, is the role of logos. The task of religion is “to help us live creatively, peacefully, and even joyously with realities for which there are no easy explanations.” She emphasizes, too, that religion will not work automatically. It is, she says, a practical discipline: its insights are derived not from abstract speculation but from “dedicated intellectual endeavor” and a “compassionate lifestyle that enables us to break out of the prism of selfhood.”

a history of god book: *A History of Early Christian Literature* Justo L. González, 2019-08-27

Historical events have long been the standard lens through which scholars have sought to understand the theology of Christianity in late antiquity. The lives of significant theological figures, the rejection of individuals and movements as heretical, and the Trinitarian and christological controversies—the defining theological events of the early church—have long provided the framework with which to understand the development of early Christian belief. In this groundbreaking work, esteemed historian of Christianity Justo González chooses to focus on the literature of early Christianity. Beginning with the epistolary writings of the earliest Christian writers of the second century CE, he moves through apologies, martyrologies, antiheretical polemics, biblical commentaries, sermons, all the way up through Augustine's invention of spiritual autobiography and beyond. Throughout he demonstrates how literary genre played a decisive role in the construction of theological meaning. Covering the earliest noncanonical Christian writings through the fifth century and later, this book will serve as an indispensable guide to students studying the theology of the early church.

a history of god book: *A History of God* Karen Armstrong, 1993-09-30

a history of god book: *The Evolution of God* Robert Wright, 2009-06-08 In this sweeping narrative that takes us from the Stone Age to the Information Age, Robert Wright unveils an astonishing discovery: there is a hidden pattern that the great monotheistic faiths have followed as they have evolved. Through the prisms of archaeology, theology, and evolutionary psychology, Wright's findings overturn basic assumptions about Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and are sure to cause controversy. He explains why spirituality has a role today, and why science, contrary to conventional wisdom, affirms the validity of the religious quest. And this previously unrecognized evolutionary logic points not toward continued religious extremism, but future harmony. Nearly a decade in the making, *The Evolution of God* is a breathtaking re-examination of the past, and a visionary look forward.

a history of god book: *Through the Narrow Gate, Revised* Karen Armstrong, 2005-02-19 Read and cherished by thousands all over the world since it was first published in 1981, *Through the Narrow Gate* takes the reader on a spiritual journey that began one September day in 1962 when Karen Armstrong said good-bye to her family at London's King's Cross station and journeyed on to the convent in Tripton to become a nun. *Through the Narrow Gate* is by turns a book of spiritual revelation and an intimate look at life inside the cloistered walls of the convent.--BOOK JACKET.

a history of god book: *Mother of God* Miri Rubin, 2009-04-21 A sweeping, ambitious study of the Virgin Mary's emergence and role throughout Western history. How did the Virgin Mary, about whom very little is said in the Gospels, become one of the most powerful and complex religious figures in the world? To arrive at the answers to this far-reaching question, one of our foremost medieval historians, Miri Rubin, investigates the ideas, practices, and images that have developed around the figure of Mary from the earliest decades of Christianity to around the year 1600. Drawing on an extraordinarily wide range of sources—including music, poetry, theology, art, scripture, and miracle tales—Rubin reveals how Mary became so embedded in our culture that it is impossible to conceive of Western history without her. In her rise to global prominence, Mary was continually remade and reimagined by wave after wave of devotees. Rubin shows how early Christians endowed Mary with a fine ancestry; why in early medieval Europe her roles as mother, bride, and companion came to the fore; and how the focus later shifted to her humanity and unparalleled purity. She also explores how indigenous people in Central America, Africa, and Asia remade Mary and so fit her into their own cultures. Beautifully written and finely illustrated, this book is a triumph of sympathy and intelligence. It demonstrates Mary's endless capacity to inspire and her profound presence in Christian cultures and beyond.

a history of god book: *A History of the Last Church of God and His Christ* Gondwe, Wezi Makuni, 2018-01-05 Some scholars classify the Last Church of God and His Christ under the ecclesiastical-cultural bloc known as African Indigenous Churches (AICs). David Barret has divided the world's Christians into seven major ecclesiastical blocs. However, there are many large churches

and denominations which do not define themselves under any of these three terms, and often reject all three. As far back as 1549 (Japan) and 1741 (USA), new types of Christianity have emerged that do not fit readily into any of these preceding six major blocs. These consist of denominations, churches and movements that have been initiated, founded and spread by black, Non-White or non-European peoples without European assistance, mainly in the Global South, but also among Black and Non-White minorities in the Western World. The African Indigenous Churches fall under this category. The aim of the book, is to examine the history of the Last Church of God and His Christ International in Malawi from its beginning (1916) through the years and to portray a picture of its current existence in its various branches: What developments and changes have taken place over the years? What has been the relationship of the church to African culture? How has the church grown or expanded? Has the church been able to maintain its unity? And what has been the relationship of the church with other churches?

a history of god book: *The Trial of God* Elie Wiesel, 1995-11-14 The Trial of God (as it was held on February 25, 1649, in Shamgorod) A Play by Elie Wiesel Translated by Marion Wiesel Introduction by Robert McAfee Brown Afterword by Matthew Fox Where is God when innocent human beings suffer? This drama lays bare the most vexing questions confronting the moral imagination. Set in a Ukrainian village in the year 1649, this haunting play takes place in the aftermath of a pogrom. Only two Jews, Berish the innkeeper and his daughter Hannah, have survived the brutal Cossack raids. When three itinerant actors arrive in town to perform a Purim play, Berish demands that they stage a mock trial of God instead, indicting Him for His silence in the face of evil. Berish, a latter-day Job, is ready to take on the role of prosecutor. But who will defend God? A mysterious stranger named Sam, who seems oddly familiar to everyone present, shows up just in time to volunteer. The idea for this play came from an event that Elie Wiesel witnessed as a boy in Auschwitz: "Three rabbis—all erudite and pious men—decided one evening to indict God for allowing His children to be massacred. I remember: I was there, and I felt like crying. But there nobody cried." Inspired and challenged by this play, Christian theologians Robert McAfee Brown and Matthew Fox, in a new Introduction and Afterword, join Elie Wiesel in the search for faith in a world where God is silent.

a history of god book: *God Against the Gods* Jonathan Kirsch, 2005-01-25 Lively... points out that the conflict between the worship of many gods and the worship of one true god never disappeared. —Publishers Weekly Jonathan Kirsch has written another blockbuster about the Bible and its world. —David Noel Freedman, Editor-in-Chief of the Anchor Bible Project Kirsch tackles the central issue bedeviling the world today - religious intolerance... A timely book, well-written and researched. —Leonard Shlain, author of *The Alphabet and the Goddess and Sex, Time and Power* An intriguing read. —The Jerusalem Report A timely tale about the importance of religious tolerance in today's world. —San Francisco Chronicle Kirsch is a fine storyteller with a flair for rendering ancient tales relevant and appealing. —The Washington Post

a history of god book: *God Has Spoken* Gerald Bray, 2014-10-31 Christian theology didn't develop in a vacuum. Understanding the story behind the doctrines that have been debated, defined, and defended throughout history is crucial for truly understanding the doctrines themselves. In this groundbreaking resource, professor Gerald Bray traces the history of Christian theology from the early church to the modern era. Structured to parallel the order in which orthodoxy gradually matured in response to challenges from both within and without the church, this volume tells the story of how Christians have struggled to understand, confess, and worship the triune God through the centuries.

a history of god book: *Between God and the Sultan* Knut S. Vikør, 2005 The contrast between religion and law has been continuous throughout Muslim history. Islamic law has always existed in a tension between these two forces: God, who gave the law, and the state--the sultan--representing society and implementing the law. This tension and dynamic have created a very particular history for the law--in how it was formulated and by whom, in its theoretical basis and its actual rules, and in how it was practiced in historical reality from the time of its formation

until today. That is the main theme of this book. Knut S. Vikor introduces the development and practice of Islamic law to a wide readership: students, lawyers, and the growing number of those interested in Islamic civilization. He summarizes the main concepts of Islamic jurisprudence; discusses debates concerning the historicity of Islamic sources of dogma and the dating of early Islamic law; describes the classic practice of the law, in the formulation and elaboration of legal rules and practice in the courts; and sets out various substantive legal rules, on such vital matters as the family and economic activity.

a history of god book: A Human-Shaped God Charles Halton, 2021-10-26 A Human-Shaped God approaches the humanlike accounts of God in the Old Testament as the starting places for theology and uses them to build a picture of the divine. This understanding of God is then brought into conversation with traditional conceptions that depict God as a being who knows everything that happens, is at every place at the same time, is constant and unchanging, and does not ultimately have material form. But instead of pitting the Old Testament's humanlike view of God against traditional theology and assuming that only one of these understandings is correct, A Human-Shaped God posits that theologians should embrace both of these constructions simultaneously. This is a new way of theological inquiry that embraces both the humanlike characteristics of God and the transcendence of God in traditional theology. By seeing and understanding the humanlike depictions of God in the Old Testament and by using the rich language of traditional theology together in tandem, the reader acquires a much deeper and meaningful understanding of God.

a history of god book: Rethinking the Ontological Argument Daniel A. Dombrowski, 2006-05-29 In recent years, the ontological argument and theistic metaphysics have been criticised by philosophers working in both the analytic and continental traditions. Responses to these criticisms have primarily come from philosophers who make use of the traditional, and problematic, concept of God. In this volume, Daniel A. Dombrowski defends the ontological argument against its contemporary critics, but he does so by using a neoclassical or process concept of God, thereby strengthening the case for a contemporary theistic metaphysics. Relying on the thought of Charles Hartshorne, he builds on Hartshorne's crucial distinction between divine existence and divine actuality, which enables neoclassical defenders of the ontological argument to avoid the familiar criticism that the argument moves illegitimately from an abstract concept to concrete reality. His argument, thus, avoids the problems inherent in the traditional concept of God as static.

a history of god book: Origin Story David Christian, 2018-05-22 This New York Times bestseller elegantly weaves evidence and insights . . . into a single, accessible historical narrative (Bill Gates) and presents a captivating history of the universe -- from the Big Bang to dinosaurs to mass globalization and beyond. Most historians study the smallest slivers of time, emphasizing specific dates, individuals, and documents. But what would it look like to study the whole of history, from the big bang through the present day -- and even into the remote future? How would looking at the full span of time change the way we perceive the universe, the earth, and our very existence? These were the questions David Christian set out to answer when he created the field of Big History, the most exciting new approach to understanding where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. In Origin Story, Christian takes readers on a wild ride through the entire 13.8 billion years we've come to know as history. By focusing on defining events (thresholds), major trends, and profound questions about our origins, Christian exposes the hidden threads that tie everything together -- from the creation of the planet to the advent of agriculture, nuclear war, and beyond. With stunning insights into the origin of the universe, the beginning of life, the emergence of humans, and what the future might bring, Origin Story boldly reframes our place in the cosmos.

a history of god book: Does God Exist? W. David Beck, 2021-03-09 Does God exist? In one incisive volume, philosopher W. David Beck offers a narrative of pre-Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Christian, and Islamic arguments for God's existence. In this history of answers to an essential question, readers will encounter both classical and contemporary arguments, including cosmological, teleological, moral, and ontological arguments.

a history of god book: What Did Jesus Look Like? Joan E. Taylor, 2018-02-08 Jesus Christ is

arguably the most famous man who ever lived. His image adorns countless churches, icons, and paintings. He is the subject of millions of statues, sculptures, devotional objects and works of art. Everyone can conjure an image of Jesus: usually as a handsome, white man with flowing locks and pristine linen robes. But what did Jesus really look like? Is our popular image of Jesus overly westernized and untrue to historical reality? This question continues to fascinate. Leading Christian Origins scholar Joan E. Taylor surveys the historical evidence, and the prevalent image of Jesus in art and culture, to suggest an entirely different vision of this most famous of men. He may even have had short hair.

a history of god book: [The Revelation of God in History](#) John F. Haught, 2009-03-01

Additional Resources

[Check or delete your Chrome browsing history - Google Help](#)

Deleted pages from your browsing history; Tips: If you're signed in to Chrome and sync your history, then your History also shows pages you've visited on your other devices. If you don't ...

Manage & delete your Search history - Computer - Google Help

On your computer, go to your Search history in My Activity. Choose the Search history you want to delete. You can choose: All your Search history: Above your history, click Delete Delete all time. ...

[Access & control activity in your account](#)

Under "History settings," click My Activity. To access your activity: Browse your activity, organized by day and time. To find specific activity, at the top, use the search bar and filters. Manage your ...

[Check or delete your Chrome browsing history](#)

Websites you've visited are recorded in your browsing history. You can check or delete your browsing history, and find related searches in Chrome. You can also resume browsing sessions ...

Delete your activity - Computer - Google Account Help

Under "History settings," click an activity or history setting you want to auto-delete. Click Auto-delete. Click the button for how long you want to keep your activity Next Confirm to save your ...

Manage your Google Meet call history

Tip: History on the home screen shows only the last call you had with a contact, whether or not it was a Meet call or a legacy call. Export your call history. On your computer, go to Meet. Select ...

[View, delete, or turn on or off watch history - Computer - YouTube ...](#)

Click YouTube History. Click Manage history. Click Auto-delete. Select your preferred time range, then click Next. Click Confirm when done. Turn off or delete your watch history while signed ...

View or delete your YouTube search history - Computer - Google ...

Delete search history. Visit the My Activity page. Select one of the following: Delete: Click beside a search to delete it. To delete more than one search from your history at a time, click DELETE. ...

[Delete browsing data in Chrome - Computer - Google Help](#)

Download history: The list of files you've downloaded using Chrome is deleted, but the actual files aren't removed from your computer. Passwords: Records of passwords you saved are deleted. ...

[Manage your Location History - Google Maps Help](#)

Location History is off by default. We can only use it if you turn Location History on. You can turn off

Location History at any time in your Google Account's Activity controls. You can review and ...

Check or delete your Chrome browsing history - Google Help

Deleted pages from your browsing history; Tips: If you're signed in to Chrome and sync your history, then your History also shows pages you've visited on your other devices. If you don't ...

Manage & delete your Search history - Computer - Google Help

On your computer, go to your Search history in My Activity. Choose the Search history you want to delete. You can choose: All your Search history: Above your history, click Delete Delete all ...

Access & control activity in your account

Under "History settings," click My Activity. To access your activity: Browse your activity, organized by day and time. To find specific activity, at the top, use the search bar and filters. Manage ...

Check or delete your Chrome browsing history

Websites you've visited are recorded in your browsing history. You can check or delete your browsing history, and find related searches in Chrome. You can also resume browsing ...

Delete your activity - Computer - Google Account Help

Under "History settings," click an activity or history setting you want to auto-delete. Click Auto-delete. Click the button for how long you want to keep your activity Next Confirm to save your ...

Manage your Google Meet call history

Tip: History on the home screen shows only the last call you had with a contact, whether or not it was a Meet call or a legacy call. Export your call history. On your computer, go to Meet. Select ...

View, delete, or turn on or off watch history - Computer - YouTube ...

Click YouTube History. Click Manage history. Click Auto-delete. Select your preferred time range, then click Next. Click Confirm when done. Turn off or delete your watch history while signed ...

View or delete your YouTube search history - Computer - Google ...

Delete search history. Visit the My Activity page. Select one of the following: Delete: Click beside a search to delete it. To delete more than one search from your history at a time, click ...

Delete browsing data in Chrome - Computer - Google Help

Download history: The list of files you've downloaded using Chrome is deleted, but the actual files aren't removed from your computer. Passwords: Records of passwords you saved are ...

Manage your Location History - Google Maps Help

Location History is off by default. We can only use it if you turn Location History on. You can turn off Location History at any time in your Google Account's Activity controls. You can review and ...

A History Of God Book

A History Of God Book

Related Articles

- [a gentleman in moscow discussion questions](#)
- [a distinguishing feature of managerial accounting is](#)
- [a good girls guide series book 1](#)

[Back to Home](#)